



100% Campaign
705 Raymond Ave. - Suite 100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
www.100percentmn.org

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Chair Klevorn and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for Rep. Erin Koegel's 2405 and 2406 and Rep. Kaela Berg's 2170.

Minnesotans are already feeling the effects of climate change. Communities across our state have work to do to prepare our state's infrastructure for the climate changes that are to come.

Fortunately, the federal government has stepped up by passing major federal investments to help address climate change and build resilience. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS Act will help Minnesota communities by increasing the infrastructure investments needed to better prepare us for climate change. This is great for Minnesotans.

In order to best take advantage of these federal funds, Minnesota needs to ramp up its ability to receive and put this federal investment to good use. House Files 2405 and 2406 will help us do so.

We support HF 2405 because it will help create a more holistic understanding of what is needed for resilient infrastructure in Minnesota. It will connect key government entities doing this work.

Minnesota communities are already taking steps to build resilience in the face of a changing climate, but we do not yet have an approach that connects across state government and levels of government in Minnesota in a fully coordinated way. HF 2405 will help address this gap. In doing so, HF 2405 will help Minnesota communities and our state government to better understand how to most effectively put federal funds to good use in the state building more resilient infrastructure.

House File 2406 funds a coordinator and support staff for federal funds at Minnesota Management and Budget. With the federal government standing up multiple programs to invest in states, the states with the staff and systems to apply for, receive, and deploy these funds will maximize the benefits of federal infrastructure investments. Investing in staff to coordinate federal investment will pay dividends in Minnesota receiving more and better-focused federal funds. House File 2406 makes just this kind of smart investment. We support it.

We also support Senate File 2170, Rep. Berg's bill to establish the 'Buy Clean and Buy Fair Minnesota Act'. The bill would require that materials used in the construction (or major renovation) of state buildings over 50,000 square feet or trunk highways include a Type III Environmental Product Declaration, as certified by the International Organization for Standard's 14025 Standard. Meeting this standard would help ensure that the steel, concrete, and asphalt paving materials that Minnesota uses have lower lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions. The bill provides a pilot program, a waiver process, grants to businesses to support compliance, and a requirement to report back to the legislature in 2025. All of these will help ensure the program meets its goals.

Minnesota is already moving toward a cleaner, more equitable future. These bills will help us make this transition. Please support House Files 2405, 2406, and 2170.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aurora Vautrin

Aurora Vautrin
Legislative Director
100% Campaign
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